

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 130509  
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 DODE-00 SP-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:DGBROWN:SJP  
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEN  
EA/PRCM - MR. THAYER  
EA/P - MR. CANNON  
DOD/ISA - GEN. PINKNEY  
DOD/PA - MR. FREEMAN  
JCS: COL. QUACKENBUSH  
S/P - MR. ROMBERG

-----088050 231434Z /75

R 231400Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0389  
INFO USLO PEKING  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
COMUSTDC TAIWAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130509

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, TW

SUBJECT: CONTINUING DOD PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS: PRESS  
GUIDANCE

1. USG SPOKESMAN SHOULD NOT VOLUNTEER ANY INFORMATION  
ON CONTINUING DOD PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS ON TAIWAN (SEPTTEL).  
IF REPORTERS INQUIRE ABOUT REDUCTIONS, SPOKESMAN SHOULD  
RESPOND DRAWING UPON THE FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S.

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2. Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT PLANS FOR FURTHER  
MILITARY REDUCTIONS ON TAIWAN?

----A: THE GRADUAL REDUCTIONS IN DOD PERSONNEL THAT HAVE  
BEEN OCCURRING FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS WILL CONTINUE AS  
FORESEEN IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

---Q: WHAT IS OUR TROOP STRENGTH ON TAIWAN NOW?

---A: THERE ARE ABOUT 1,000 DOD CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ON TAIWAN PERFORMING LIAISON, COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPORT FUNCTIONS. (AFTER THE NUMBER OF DOD PERSONNEL FALLS BELOW 800, THIS ANSWER SHOULD BE ALTERED TO READ "ABOUT 750".) THE U.S. DOES NOT HAVE ANY COMBAT FORCES ON TAIWAN AND HAS NOT HAD ANY SINCE 1975 WHEN THE LAST U.S.

F-4 SQUADRON WAS WITHDRAWN.

---Q: HOW MANY DOD PERSONNEL WILL BE ON TAIWAN BY THE END OF THE YEAR?

---A: THERE WILL BE FEWER DOD CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL, BUT I CAN NOT GIVE YOU AN APPROXIMATE FIGURE.

---Q: WILL ANY UNITS BE ELIMINATED?

---A: THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION TO ELIMINATE TDC, MAAG OR ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT UNIT, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME SMALL SUPPORT UNITS MAY LEAVE TAIWAN.

---Q: WHAT DO THE REDUCTIONS MEAN FOR THE U.S. POLICY OF NORMALIZATION?  
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---A: THE REDUCTIONS ARE PART OF A GRADUAL PROCESS. THEY ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

---Q: WHY ARE THESE REDUCTIONS OCCURRING WHEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS STATED THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GROUND FORCE WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA, THE U.S. IS NOT GOING TO REDUCE ANY OF ITS COMBAT FORCES IN ASIA?

---A: AS I SAID, WE DO NOT HAVE ANY COMBAT FORCES ON TAIWAN. THESE REDUCTIONS INVOLVE ONLY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL IN NON-COMBAT UNITS.

3. SPOKESMEN SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND THIS GUIDANCE. ANY OTHER QUESTIONS SHOULD BE TURNED ASIDE BY ASKING THAT THE REPORTER'S NEWS AGENCY RAISE THE QUESTION IN WASHINGTON.  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978STATE130509  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DGBROWN:SJP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014